

# Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

September 30, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We write to inform you of our concerns with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Motorcycle Law Enforcement Demonstrations Grant program. NHTSA recently expanded the widely criticized program that creates motorcycle-only checkpoints.

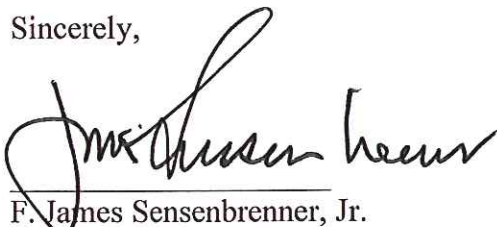
As supporters of H.Res. 1498 in the House of Representatives, we believe that the safety of motorcyclists is best addressed by increasing motorcycle awareness and focusing on crash prevention. The motorcycle-only checkpoints, however, take into account factors such as USDOT-approved helmet compliance, tailpipe standards and motorcycle modifications. While these factors may contribute to motorcyclist safety, they do not help prevent crashes. Crash prevention must be the primary focus of improving safety. We do not understand why NHTSA continues to focus on secondary factors that do not prevent motorcycle crashes.

You are aware that New York has implemented the checkpoint program. Please detail the benefits of this program, including the types of infractions that have been recorded that will help prevent accidents. We would also like to know the criteria NHTSA will use to determine if motorcycle-only checkpoints have been successful crash prevention methods that help to ensure motorcyclist safety.

Until these concerns are addressed, we encourage you to suspend Administrator Strickland's Motorcycle Law Enforcement Demonstrations Grant program. The funding for this program would be better spent on awareness programs and crash causation studies unless evidence suggests otherwise.

Please address these concerns by October 13. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

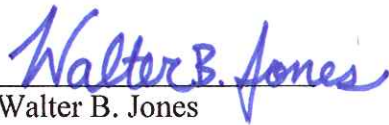
Sincerely,



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Thomas E. Petri  
Member of Congress




Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



Aaron Schock  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



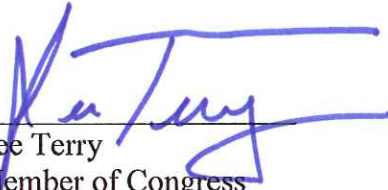
Thaddeus G. McCotter  
Member of Congress



Paul Ryan  
Member of Congress



Denny Rehberg  
Member of Congress



Lee Terry  
Member of Congress



Ron Paul  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress